

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Isaac Clark on 4/21/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Claims 1-22 are cancelled. Claims 1-5, 14-18, 21 and 22 were previously pending in the Office action mailed 1/22/2008, and are now cancelled.

Claim 23 is amended to incorporate subject matter previously indicated allowable as discussed in paragraph 7 of the Office action mailed 1/22/2008. Claim 23 reads as follows:

--23. (Currently Amended) A substrate bonding apparatus for manufacturing a liquid crystal display (LCD) device, comprising:

a base frame;

a lower chamber unit mounted to the base frame;

an upper chamber unit joinable to the lower chamber unit, wherein the upper and lower chambers define an interior space capable of being sealed and evacuated to apply a vacuum pressure;

an upper stage fixed to the upper chamber unit for securing a first substrate; and

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at a lower stage fixed to the lower chamber unit for securing a second substrate;
~~at least one first elastic member arranged between the upper stage and the~~
~~upper chamber unit; and~~

~~at least one second elastic member arranged between the lower stage and the~~
~~lower chamber unit;~~

wherein at least one of the upper and lower stages includes: a fixing plate coupled to a corresponding one of the upper and lower chamber units; ~~[[and]]~~ a securing plate for securing a corresponding one of the first and second substrates ~~[[,]]~~; at least one first elastic member arranged between the corresponding one of the upper and lower chamber units and the fixing plate; and at least one second elastic member arranged between the fixing plate and the securing plate, and wherein at least one of the first and second elastic members is arranged between the fixing plate and the securing plate and wherein the securing plate includes a plurality of holes for transmitting a suction force to a secure substrate,

and wherein the ~~at least one of the~~ first and second elastic members ~~arranged between the fixing plate and the securing plate~~ apply restorative forces to the fixing plate and securing plate to oppose deformation of the fixing plate and securing plate due to deforming forces generated by convex bending of the corresponding one of the upper and lower chamber units due to application of the vacuum pressure and the weight of the upper and lower stages.--

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claim 23 is allowed.

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3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claim 23 incorporates the subject matter previously indicated allowable as discussed in paragraph 7 of the Office action mailed 1/22/2008.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL MCNALLY whose telephone number is (571)272-2685. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (571) 272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Daniel McNally/
Examiner, Art Unit 1791

/Jeff H. Aftergut/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1791

/DPM/
April 22, 2008